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Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13
/070 W
----------041549 030220Z /14
R 020334Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8694

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 21945

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, TH
SUBJ: POLITICAL DETAINEES AND USE OF NARC ORDER 22

REF: A. BANGKOK 14942, B. BANGKOK 21025, C. STATE 189320

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL C, EMBASSY CONTACTED THE THAI DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS TO DETERMINE CURRENT THAI POLICY REGARDING NARC ORDER 22. ALTHOUGH UNABLE TO GIVE AN EXACT NUMBER (HE HAS JUST RETURNED FROM A TWO MONTH TRIP NABROAD), A SENIOR OFFICIAL STATED THERE WERE NO MORE THAN 800 PERSONS CURRENTLY DETAINED UNDER ORDER 22 AND ONLY 2 OR 3 PERSONS WERE DETAINED UNDER SECTIONS DEALING WITH POLITICAL OFFENSES. WHILE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DETAINEES SHOWS AN APPARENT OVERALL INCREASE COMPARED TO FIGURES GIVEN IN REFTEL A, THE NUMBER OF REPORTED POLITICAL DE-TAINEES HAS DECREASED FROM THE PREVIOUS FIGURE OF FIVE PERSONS. THESE FIGURES ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE ESTIMATES OF REFTEL B WHICH INDICATED ABOUT 400-500 DETAINEES IN AREAS OUTSIDE OF CENTRAL THAILAND (BANGKOK REGION).

2. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THERE ARE FIVE SPECIAL TRAINING CAMPS INCLUDING LAD BUA KAO IN KORAT. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE CAMPS IN AYUTTHAYA, PHITSANULOK, SONGKHLA, AND UBON. THESE CAMPS ARE SOLELY FOR PERSONS DETAINED UNDER NARC
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ORDER 22. THE LARGEST IS AT AYUTTHAYA WITH 200 DETAINEES AND THE TOTAL FIGURE IS AROUND 800. ALTHOUGH INITIALLY HELD IN PROVINCIAL JAILS, ALL NARC 22 DETAINEES ARE FINALLY LOCATED IN THESE CAMPS. THE CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT REPORT-ED THE VAST MAJORITY OF DETAINEES UNDER NARC ORDER 22 WERE PETTY CRIMINALS AND VILLAGE TROUBLEMAKERS. THIS RESPONSE IS SIMILAR TO THAT OF PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES IN

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REFTEL B.

3. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT POLITICAL DETAINEES ARE BEING HELD UNDER OTHER SECTIONS OF NARC ORDER 22. OFFICIALS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS HAVE BEEN FRANK AND OPEN WITH THE EMBASSY IN THE PAST, AND THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THEIR PRESENT STATEMENTS ARE IN-ACCURATE. ABRAMOWITZ

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